Work Plan for the
eBusiness Standards Convergence Forum (eBSC Forum)

Last update: 2003-07-08, mep

Guiding Principles:
1. Tasks 1-6.1 and 11 are the highest priority.
2. Progress and coordination conference calls / web meetings every 3 weeks.
3. NIST/SIMA will provide a web site and web-collaboration capabilities for the work of the eBSC Forum.
4. Participation on task teams is open.   New participants should contact Mark Palmer to be added to the master log of task teams.
5. Draft work is distributed to the entire eBSC participant list whenever the task team releases it for review and comments.

1. Develop recommendations on what is needed for the paradigm shift to cross-industry standards convergence
- Document the barriers to standards organizations reusing the results of other efforts
  - Example: UBL, UN/CEFAT and ANS X12 challenges in achieving alignment on core components
- Document the business cases for: reuse, convergence, and collaboration actions
- Document what is needed to force organizations to converge
- Recognize how to best leverage each organization's core competencies and value propositions
- Develop short presentation and white paper for motivating commitment and action

Team: Pat Snack (lead), David Barkley, Karl Best, Bill French, Sally Fuger, Ken Hutcheson, Dick Malaise, Robert Miller, Paul Tearnen, Tim Thomasma

2. Develop agreement on eBus architecture framework and opportunities for convergence
- Collect recommendations for the structure of an "inventory matrix" for documenting and understanding what is available
- Collect eBusiness architecture frameworks and document essential concepts
- Develop inventory matrix and request organizations to populate it with their work (this will probably generate additional improvements to the inventory matrix)
- Document any additional standards or solutions
- Document overlaps, gaps and problems
- Identify opportunities for convergence and improvements
- Identify opportunities for joint development

TEAM: Karl Best (lead), Marty Burns, Suresh Damodaran, Rik Drummond, Sally Fuger, Mark Palmer, Tom Rhodes, Marion Royal, Ron Schuldt, Pat Snack, Tim Thomasma, Tom Warner, Jim Wilson, Ron Wood, ANC X12 participant (David Barkley will provide name)

3. Define a common conceptual model for eBus capabilities stack

- o Models to consider: FEA (Federal Enterprise Reference) Model (source: Marion Royal), OASIS conceptual model (source: Karl Best), BIC eBus stack model and supporting documentation (source: Tim Thomasma), UN/CEFACT
- o Include real-time collaboration and explain how web services are included
  - Sources for input on these improvements: Ron Schuldt, Tim Thomasma, Tom Warner
- o Include the business view and functional service view
- o Include the role of business process definition and reuse

TEAM: Karl Best (lead), Marty Burns, Rik Drummond, Sally Fuger, Mark Palmer, Tom Rhodes, Marion Royal, Ron Schuldt, Pat Snack, Tim Thomasma, Tom Warner, Jim Wilson, Ron Wood, ANC X12 participant (David Barkley will provide name)

4. **Develop glossary/thesaurus of essential terms**
   - o Collect available glossaries and identify missing or conflicting definitions
   - o Terms to include: convergence, core components, eBusiness, machine-processable specifications, meta-data, real-time collaboration, web-services,…
   - o Circulate for review and additions
   - o Update as needed to support the other tasks

Team: Jim Wilson (lead)

5. **Define high priority convergence projects, e.g., highest pay off and viable, and establish mechanisms for completion**
   - o Define business case and motivations for convergence
   - o Explain what the project should accomplish and how
   - o Examples:
     - Develop common schema representation for coded lists
     - Develop meta data and business process registries
     - Converge on common "core components" for typical purchase order

TEAM: Karl Best, Sally Fuger, Ken Hutcheson, Mark Palmer, Tom Rhodes, Marion Royal, Ron Schuldt, Pat Snack, Tim Thomasma, Tom Warner

6. **Execute joint development / convergence projects. Prove that this is feasible and deliver immediate results.**
   6.1 Develop common schema representation for coded lists
   Sources: UBL, RosettaNet, OAGIS

   Team: Suresh Damodaran (technical lead), Mark Palmer (task coordinator), Lisa Aeon, Marty Burns, Bill French, Monica Martin, Mike Rowell, Dawn Xu, AIAG participant (promised by Sally Fuger), GSA participant (promised by Marion Royal), X12 representative (promised by David Barkley)

   6.2 …

7. **Develop recommendations on Generic Industry Roadmap for industry adaptation**
   - o Develop Inventory of available roadmaps
   - o Document strengths and weaknesses
   - o Develop generic Industry Roadmap
   - o Work with industry program to develop example "industry adaptations" and deployment plans

8. **Develop recommendations on achieving semantic interoperability**
   - o Document relevant work and fundamental principles
     - ▪ semantic web, multiple ontology developments, ..
   - o Consolidate available XML schema development guidelines
   - o Converge on schema naming and design rules for a consistent XML schema development process
   - o Recommend unique identifier solution, e.g., UDEF
     - ▪ assess UDEF vs name space mechanisms

9. **Consolidate / produce summary of available "business friendly" guidance for eBus adoption, e.g., eBus principles, process modeling, UML, use case development, core components adoption (bridging the gap between business process experts and the delivery of machine readable specs)**
   - o Sources: RAPID, CIDX, AIAG, UN/CEFACT, STAR, insights from X12 experiences…
   - o Examples:
     - ▪ Common use case template and business process guidance
     - ▪ Definition and use of information models

10. **Develop recommendations on delivery of a "eBus standards development and use" registry. Could be registration with a defined template**
    - o purpose: to promote convergence
    - o need to define persuasive business motivation
      - ▪ maintenance and quality control demands reources; previous efforts died partially due this resource drain
      - ▪ resolve why other such "one stop shop" efforts failed
    - o define a viable scope
    - o combination of a standards registry (idea for ISO/IEC/ITU/ECE MOUMG) with a registry of eBus standards project proposals and RFIs:
    - o MOUMG could be the right forum for this, as part of its coordination role, including project proposal process
    - o collection and subscription model
    - o UN/CEFACT already has this underway for internal activities
    - o is this already done by "XML Cover Page", no

11. Develop recommendations on what is needed for testing:
- validation testing
- proof of concept
- Implementation/conformance testing
- interoperability testing
- software certification services

Task ideas:
- Collect what is available for testing frameworks and start a discussion list to elucidate the issues
    - information available from RosettaNet, ebXML and WS-I
    - semantic / payload testing is only occurring in OAGI and RosettaNet; nothing in ebXML
- Document immediate needs and challenges
    - examples: need for international alignment on ebXML testing; regional testing variations are developing; differences in languages
- Develop testing inventory matrix

TEAM: Rik Drummond (lead), Simon Frechette, Tom Rhodes, Tim Sakach, Tim Thomasma

12. Produce summary of available tools (templates, software,..) and capabilities for developing model driven eBus solutions – delivering machine processable results (related to the above item)